

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
HA-05 TRSE-00 CU-04 AID-05 /077 W
-----128656 070346Z /72
R 061958Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8356

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM PINT CI
BANISHED PDCERS RETURN TO SANTIAGO

REF: A) SANTIAGO 1446, B) SANTIAGO 1505

1. THE 12 BANISHED PDCERS ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO AT 2245 HOURS, MARCH 4, ABOARD A REGULAR LAN FLIGHT -- TWO DAYS AFTER THE GOC LIFTED THE BANISHMENT ORDER (REF A). ALL APPEARED IN GOOD HEALTH. A SMALL, BUT ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD OF FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WELCOMED THE 12 WITH CHANTS AND CHEERS.

2. IN STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS AND TELEVISION REPORTERS, INDIVIDUAL GROUP MEMBERS SOUNDED DEFIANT: PDC VICE PRESIDENT TOMAS REYES SAID THAT THE 12 DID NOT COME ON THEIR KNEES, ASKING FOR OR GIVING APOLOGIES; ANDRES AYLWIN SAID THAT THE EXPERIENCE HAD SERVED ONLY TO REINFORCE HIS BELIEFS; YOUTH LEADER GUILLERMO YUNGE SAID HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN SURE THAT THE MEASURE WOULD BE LIFTED.

3. IN A CHAT WITH NEWSMEN THE DAY BEFORE, PRESIDENT PINOCHET OFFERED THE VIEW THAT THE 12 HAD HAD ENOUGH
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TIME TO THINK THINGS OVER AND "IT WAS NECESSARY THAT THEY RETURN". BUT, HE WARNED, "THE NEXT TIME THEY DO IT (BREAK THE POLITICAL RECESS), THEY GO TO PISAGUA OR CHAITEN".

4. COMMENT: ANSWERING PINOCHET, "EL MERCURIO'S" MARCH 5 EDITORIAL POINTED TO THE HIGH POLITICAL COSTS

OF THE BANISHMENT OF THE 12 (REF B) AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER RESORT TO SUCH ACTION IN CASES NOT INVOLVING ARMED CLANDESTINE/SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. PINOCHET'S THREAT TO RETURN THE 12 (OR OTHERS) TO BANISHMENT WAS ALMOST PREDICTABLE. PISAGUA, BETWEEN ARICA AND IGUIGUE, IS WHERE GONZALEZ VIDELA SENT MANY COMMUNISTS AFTER HE BROKE WITH THAT PARTY IN 1947-48. CHAITEN IS ALSO A SEAPORT, BUT IN THE SOUTH BELOW PUERTO MONTT.

5. FOR CU: THE EMBASSY WILL BE CONTACTING YUNGE REGARDING HIS PENDING IVP GRANT AND, ASSUMING HE STILL WANTS TO GO, PROPOSING TRAVEL DATES -- HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.
BOYATT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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